



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,256	12/02/2005	Benoit Regnard	17170/010001	8566
22511	7590	03/18/2008	EXAMINER	
OSHA LIANG L.L.P. 1221 MCKINNEY STREET SUITE 2800 HOUSTON, TX 77010			LE, DANG D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2834	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/18/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docketing@oshaliang.com
buta@oshaliang.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/532,256	REGNARD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dang D. Le	2834	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 25-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 25-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 12/21/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant's argument is on the ground that member (20) of Pfluger is a not a cover and member (20) is an internal plastic bearing plate. It is noted that during patent examination, the pending claims must be "given the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification." Applicant always has the opportunity to amend the claims during prosecution and broad interpretation by the examiner reduces the possibility that the claim, once issued, will be interpreted more broadly than is justified. *In re Prater* , 162 USPQ 541, 550 - 51 (CCPA 1969). The member (20) of Pfluger can be called a cover because it functions as a cover for covering the slip ring assembly. The bearing (8) can be said to be mounted on the shaft (2) or the shaft can be said to be mounted on the bearing. Similarly, the bearing (8) can be said to be mounted on the cover (20) or the cover can be said to be mounted on the bearing. It is noted that, the claim neither recite the cover for covering the entire alternator. In addition, the "rear bearing" recited in the claims and in the specification of the present application is in fact "a rear housing" supporting a bearing.

As a result, the rejection is still deemed proper and repeated hereinafter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 25-41, 44, 45, 47, and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pfluger (4,546,280).

Regarding claim 25, Pfluger shows a polyphase rotating electrical machine comprising:

- An outer frame (right side) comprising a rear bearing (8);
- A cover (20) configured to be mounted on the rear bearing;
- A polyphase wound stator (14, 15) comprising a plurality of phase outputs; and
- A phase connector (39) configured to connect to the plurality of phase outputs and configured to connect to an exterior (so called for being outside of the space where the rotor located) electronic module (30, 31), wherein the phase connector is supported on the cover (Figure 1).

Regarding claim 26, Pfluger also shows the cover comprising electrically insulating material.

Regarding claim 27, Pfluger also shows a polyphase rotating electrical machine comprising: an outer frame comprising a rear bearing; a cover configured to be mounted on the rear bearing; a polyphase wound stator comprising a plurality of phase outputs; and a phase connector configured to connect to the plurality of phase outputs and configured to connect to an exterior electronic module, wherein the phase connector is supported on a first projection (Figure 3) extending from the cover.

Regarding claim 28, Pfluger also shows the first projection being configured to be mounted on the rear bearing.

Regarding claim 29, Pfluger also shows the first projection being arranged on an external peripheral portion of the cover (Figure 3).

Regarding claim 30, Pfluger also shows the phase connector being offset by the first projection to a location beyond the external peripheral portion of the cover (because of the protruding portion at U, V, and W).

Regarding claim 31, Pfluger also shows the first projection comprising support arms (46) extending from the cover.

Regarding claim 32, Pfluger also shows the cover comprising an external peripheral skirt (38) and a bottom, and the support arms being integrated with the external peripheral skirt of the cover and the bottom of the cover.

Regarding claim 33, Pfluger also shows the support arms being connected by a flange that carries the phase connector.

Regarding claim 34, Pfluger also shows the phase connector having a rod crossing the flange and the rod (49) is integrated with a support tab attached to the rear bearing.

Regarding claim 35, Pfluger also shows the support tab is supported on a chimney integrated with the rear bearing and is perforated for the passage of a mounting element in the chimney.

Regarding claim 36, Pfluger also shows the phase connector comprising a hollow protuberance carried by the flange, the rod crosses the flange and the protuberance,

and the support tab comprising a second projection mounted inside the protuberance (Figure 1, portion between slip rings and bolt 13).

Regarding claim 37, Pfluger also shows the second projection being supported on a perforated part, which is perforated for passage of the rod, and the perforated part is made of thermoset plastic material resistant to creep attached by cast molding to the inside of the protuberance (Figure 1)

Regarding claim 38, Pfluger also shows the rod being threaded (49).

Regarding claim 39, Pfluger also shows the phase connector being connected to phase connection inputs by electrical conductors at least partially sunk in the first projection (Figure 3).

Regarding claim 40, Pfluger also shows the electrical conductors comprising electrical tracks, and at least two electrical tracks are installed, each electrical track connected to an electrical contact face of the phase connector (Figure 3).

Regarding claim 41, Pfluger also shows the electrical tracks being sunk in the cover, in the support arms, and in the flange (Figure 3).

Regarding claim 44, Pfluger also shows a brush holder being covered by the cover and associated with a brush holder connector, and the brush holder connector is integrally formed with the cover.

Regarding claim 45, Pfluger also shows the cover having a bottom, and the brush holder connector is connected to the brush bolder by electrically conducting tracks sunk in the bottom of the cover.

Regarding claim 47, Pfluger also shows the cover comprising two parts, one part has the phase connector and the other part covers the brush holder.

Regarding claim 48, Pfluger also shows the polyphase rotating electrical machine being an alternator.

4. Claims 27, 42, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Franz et al. (4,705,983).

Regarding claims 27, 42, and 43, Franz et al. shows all of the limitations of the claimed invention including the phase connector being connected to phase connection inputs by electrical conductors at least partially sunk in the first projection, and the phase connection inputs extend to the external periphery of the cover and are covered by a secondary cover (62) mounted on the cover and made of electrically insulating material (Figure 1) and the secondary cover being in the shape of a circle arc, the phase connection inputs comprise mounting tabs, and the secondary cover has hollow bosses configured to house the mounting tabs.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein

were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 46 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pfluger in view of Vlemmings et al. (6,424,065).

Regarding claims 46 and 49, Pfluger shows all of the limitations of the claimed invention except for the polyphase rotating electrical machine being an alternator-starter further comprising: a sensor holder; and a sensor holder connector, wherein the sensor holder is mounted under the bottom of the cover, and the sensor holder connector passes radially through an opening in a peripheral annular wall of the cover.

Vlemmings et al. the polyphase rotating electrical machine being an alternator-starter further comprising: a sensor holder (8); and a sensor holder connector (62) for the purpose of monitoring the motor and starter operation.

Since Pfluger and Vlemmings et al. are all from the same field of endeavor; the purpose disclosed by one inventor would have been recognized in the pertinent art of the others.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to make the polyphase rotating electrical machine as an alternator-starter and to include a sensor holder with a sensor holder connector, wherein the sensor holder is mounted under the bottom of the cover, and the sensor

holder connector passes radially through an opening in a peripheral annular wall of the cover as taught by Vlemmings et al. for the purpose discussed above.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Information on How to Contact USPTO

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dang D. Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-2027. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on (571) 272-2044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dang D Le/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2834

3/2/08